

I'm writing to comment on BellSouth's request to exclude independent ISPs from access to DSL. I use an independent ISP that provides exemplary service for a very competitive price. They provide great competition to BellSouth's offering, and have provided many different technologies (wired and wireless) in our area, long before the telephone companies did. We still haven't gotten cable modems, and satellite service is a problem because of the topography.

By having an independent ISP, we have a very competitive market in our area. Cable modems are coming, and if they want to displace my ISP, they're going to have to work very, very hard.

The wires that BellSouth uses were paid for by the local rate-payers (i.e., me), run on local right-of-ways from the local government and should be made available to as many different entities as possible to provide a truly competitive market.

Please don't allow BellSouth to bring a monopoly of Internet Service to California!